

Remains found at Indiana farm ID'd as teen slain by serial killer Larry Eyler

Killer for years lived in Terre Haute; abducted at least one victim here

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Associated Press

Indianapolis

Human remains found buried in 1983 at an abandoned Indiana farm have been identified as those of a Chicago teenager who was a victim of the late serial killer Larry Eyler, authorities said Tuesday. The remains, which were found near the remains of three young men Eyler also killed, are those of Keith Lavell Bibbs, who was 16 when he died, according to the Newton County Coroner's Office and the DNA Doe Project.

Eyler, originally from Crawfordsville, had many connections to Terre Haute. He lived here in the 1970s and early 80s — at least part of that time with David Robert Little, an Indiana State University professor of library science.

Eyler would later claim Little was an accomplice in five of his homicides. Little was tried in one killing and was acquitted.

In December 1982, Steven Agan, 23, was abducted in Terre Haute. His body was found several days later near an abandoned Vermillion County farmhouse off Indiana 63.

Eyler, on death row in Illinois in for a separate murder, eventually confessed to Agan's slaying. He contended Little was involved.

Little was tried in Vermillion County, and he was acquitted in April 1991. Eyler confessed to at least 20 killings before dying in 1994 at an Illinois prison, where he

In 1990, Eyler confessed to killing a Black male in July 1983 at a Newton County farm and described that male as being in his late teens or early 20s, said Pam Lauritzen, spokeswoman for the DNA Doe Project, a nonprofit that works to identify cold case victims.

Bibbs, who was a Chicago resident, would have been 16 at the time of his death, she said.

The Newton County Coroner's Office worked with the DNA Doe Project, Indiana State Police and the Identify Indiana Initiative to identify Bibbs nearly 40 years after his remains were discovered.

He is the last to be positively identified of the four victims found buried in shallow graves in October 1983 at the abandoned farm in Lake Village, about 60 miles southeast of Chicago. All four had been drugged and murdered by Eyler, according to his confessions.

Newton County Coroner Scott McCord said he was working Tuesday on paperwork needed to get Bibbs' remains sent to his relatives for burial. He said the family is requesting privacy while they grieve.

"Everything's done except for getting him back home," he told The Associated Press on Tuesday. "It's been a long road getting all those kids identified."

The DNA Doe Project said in a news release that Bibbs' DNA was "highly degraded" and investigators spent more than two years repeatedly trying to create "a workable DNA profile" to compare

site in rural northwestern Indiana had been identified as 19-year-old William Joseph Lewis of Peru, Indiana.

Lewis' body was also found in October 1983, but in a Jasper County field, about 70 miles southeast of Chicago. He was last seen alive in 1982 by his family at a friend's funeral in Houston, Texas, officials said.

— *The Tribune-Star* also contributed to this report.



Larry Eyler confessed to at least 20 killings in the Midwest before dying in 1994 at an Illinois prison, where he was on death row for the 1984 murder of 15-year-old Danny Bridges of Chicago.

Wikipedia photo

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to databases used for forensic cases. In January, the nonprofit said a team of investigative genetic genealogists had finally made progress unraveling Bibbs' "complex family tree," leading to his identification.

Two of Eyler's four victims found buried at the farm were identified early in the investigation as Michael Bauer and John Bartlett. In April 2021, the coroner's office announced that authorities had identified a third victim as John Ingram Brandenburg Jr. of Chicago, leaving only Bibbs' body unidentified at that time.

In December 2021, authorities announced that the body of another of Eyler's victims found at a different

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